

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 4

4
5 By: Senator J. Key

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ARKANSAS'S SCHOOL CHILDREN BY
9 APPLAUDING PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST® ROBOTICS
10 PROGRAM; TO ENCOURAGE FIRST® TO HOLD A REGIONAL
11 COMPETITION IN ARKANSAS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ARKANSAS'S SCHOOL
16 CHILDREN BY APPLAUDING PARTICIPATION IN
17 THE FIRST® ROBOTICS PROGRAM; TO ENCOURAGE
18 FIRST® TO HOLD A REGIONAL COMPETITION IN
19 ARKANSAS.

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22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 WHEREAS, the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology
26 (FIRST®) program, was founded in 1989 to inspire the youth of today to
27 participate in science and technology, that will carry forward to tomorrow;
28 and

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30 WHEREAS, FIRST® inspires young people to be science and technology
31 leaders, by encouraging them to participate in mentor-based programs that
32 build science, engineering, and technology skills, using their imaginations,
33 and build life skills, such as self-confidence and communication; and

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35 WHEREAS, nearly fifty (50) teams from across the State of Arkansas are
36 participating in FIRST®LEGO League and recently competed at the Arkansas



1 State FIRST®LEGO League Championship Tournament & Junior FIRST®LEGO League
2 Expo in Mountain Home, Arkansas; and

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4 WHEREAS, Baxter Healthcare Corporation has sponsored the Arkansas
5 FIRST®LEGO League Championship Tournament for twelve (12) years and the
6 FIRST® Robotics Competition Hall of Fame Team #16, the Bomb Squad, for
7 sixteen (16) years in Mountain Home, Arkansas; and

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9 WHEREAS, FIRST® is organized in "Regions" across the country, but due
10 to lack of high school participation, Arkansas does not belong to a region;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, Arkansas has the opportunity to claim at least one hundred
14 thirty-three thousand dollars (\$133,000) in grant funds to encourage high
15 school FIRST® Robotics teams to form and participate; and

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17 WHEREAS, a high school-level regional FIRST® Robotics Competition would
18 be an excellent opportunity for Arkansas students; and

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20 WHEREAS, there are currently three (3) FIRST® Robotics high school
21 teams in Arkansas, and at least seven (7) more are needed in order to hold a
22 regional tournament in Arkansas; and

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24 WHEREAS, the J.C. Penney Company has agreed to sponsor sixteen (16)
25 FIRST® Robotics teams in Arkansas with a nine-thousand-five-hundred-dollar
26 (\$9,500) grant available per team; and

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28 WHEREAS, we the people of Arkansas want to applaud and commend the
29 students, volunteers, and sponsors who cultivate a love of science and
30 technology among our youth by participating in the FIRST® Robotics program;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, we want to enlist the support of other generous corporations
34 and organizations in Arkansas to sponsor FIRST® Robotics teams at Arkansas
35 high schools and endeavor to celebrate the students' work at an Arkansas
36 FIRST® Robotics Competition; and

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WHEREAS, we want to encourage the FIRST® Robotics program to hold a regional FIRST® Robotics Tournament in Arkansas for high school students,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That Arkansas resolves to applaud and support the students, volunteers, and sponsors who participate in the FIRST® Robotics Program, and to hold a regional FIRST® Robotics Tournament in Arkansas for high school students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to Walter P. Havenstein, FIRST® Chairman of the Board; CEO, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and to Meredith Novak, Operational Partner for the Arkansas FIRST®LEGO League program.